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most solidly to adopt the constitution. On the other hand the region farther west in Massachusetts that supported Shay's movement in 1786 also opposed the adoption of the constitution in 1788 and was found opposing the Jeffersonian party from 1800 to 1812. No application of theories of economic determinism can fit such a geographical distribution of votes. Here, as in all the other cases, there is clearly manifested the unhampered support of an enlightened and experienced body of voters to a program that bore every mark of progress and of widening national horizons. It may be doubted, also, whether the author is correct in ascribing to John Taylor, of Virginia, a representative statement of American agrarianism. Taylor wrote in 1814 from the midst of a stationary slaveholding society that had suffered and was yet to suffer still more heavily from the shifting of population and capital westward and northward. The true agrarian was to be found at this date somewhere on the Ohio river; he might not be writing a book but a national policy would be taking shape in his mind, an ample program of measures which would give the new west its full share in the great forward movements of the time.

Not many years ago the discovery of the deterministic factors in history was announced by the students of physiography. That a representative of economic determinism should now appear is entirely natural in a stage of our national history when we have come to be openly materialistic. The very interesting facts brought out by Beard and his ingenious use of them in defense of his theory of society must remain inconclusive until he is able to take into account satisfactorily the colonial experience that lies back of the political thinking during Jefferson's day. He must also include in his system of determinism the new west, which played so important a part in the evolution of the Jeffersonian democracy. Whatever discoveries may yet be in store for the student of history, no very fundamental contribution seems likely to be projected into the field until the sociologists are ready to announce the results of their studies in the field of human society.

O. G. LIBBY

Memoir of Sebastian Cabot; with a review of the history of maritime discovery. Illustrated by documents from the rolls, now first published. (Philadelphia: Carey and Lea, 1831. Reprinted by J. B. Lippincott company, 1914. 327 p.)

This remarkable book was first published in Philadelphia and London in 1831, followed by a second London edition in 1832. No name appears on any of the title-pages, but from the first it was no secret that the author was Richard Biddle, a very able lawyer of Pittsburgh, Pennsylv-

vania. The impelling motive seems to have been a desire to expose the many blunders contained in an article printed in the *Biographie universelle* (Paris, 1828). The treatise, however, soon developed largely into a passionate brief for Sebastian Cabot; and this at the expense of the father, John Cabot, the discoverer of the North American continent. The study displays great research and learning, and immediately attracted favorable attention despite its strong bias and loose structure. Moreover, it must be granted that solid investigation of the Cabot discoveries began with this volume; and, although written by an advocate rather than a trained historian, it has been of material aid to all subsequent investigators. Dr. Charles Deane, in his day one of the most careful students of Cabotian literature and of the subject in all its aspects, some thirty years ago justly characterized Biddle's work as the best review of the history of maritime discovery covering the period treated, which had up to that time appeared. Nevertheless, the beginner in the subject should use the *Memoir* with the utmost caution. Biddle, for example, is particularly vindictive in his treatment of Richard Hakluyt, who indeed needs no defense, even when attacked by our incisive author. He was, we must admit, rather careless in quoting from his authorities, but this fault is not such as to merit Biddle's condemnation; for there is no reason to ascribe bad faith to Master Hakluyt.

For many years a rather scarce book, a reprint of the *Memoir* has long been on the list of historical desiderata. The issue now under consideration was "undertaken by the surviving son of the author in testimony of his affectionate veneration for his father's memory." Yet filial devotion which results in sending forth a new edition of a work of this character without a proper editorial accompaniment is of a questionable sort. The book should have been edited by a scholar who has made the Cabot voyages in particular his special field. Apparently, no such thought entered the uncritical mind of Richard Biddle's devoted son; instead, a preface of no value, signed by Edward Biddle, evidently another member of the family, is added — nothing more. It contains a biographical fact or two, and extracts from contemporary and other reviews, showing that the volume was favorably received at the time of its first publication in 1831, and later. Mr. Deane is mentioned, as is also Mr. Harrisse; but no hint of the carefully critical way in which these gentlemen have made use of the *Memoir* is vouchsafed. The writer of the preface refers with evident satisfaction to the fact that there are thirty-six references to Biddle in Harrisse's writings. In the latter's valuable *John Cabot, the discoverer of North America, and Sebastian his son* (London, 1896) alone there are thirty-eight references to the *Memoir*; and if these had been carefully read and pondered by the surviving Biddles, or if they had

sought the advice of one versed in the subject, we might now have a worthy edition of this very useful book.

The plates from which the present issue was printed seem to have been made by photographing a copy of the original Philadelphia edition. The result is not satisfactory, for the pages have a heavy, smudgy appearance. This method, however, gives us a page-for-page reprint, making the references found in numerous works as readily traceable as in the first American edition. Portraits, excellently reproduced, of Sebastian Cabot and his doughty biographer are included.

JOHN THOMAS LEE

Robert Fulton. By Alice Crary Sutcliffe. [True stories of great Americans.] (New York: Macmillan company, 1915. 195 p. \$.50 net)

This little biography of Robert Fulton is one that makes its appeal from the very first page. It is a tale simply related, yet charmingly and attractively told. From the vast mass of data available for writing the life of the great American inventor, the author has incorporated selections which give us, in Fulton's own words, an account of every important phase of his career. We follow the lad through his early boyhood, we accompany him to Philadelphia and see him there develop his talent with paint and brush; after that he tells his own story — for none could tell it so well — of his voyage to England and of his delightful association with Benjamin West.

At this point occurred the turning point in Fulton's career. A chance visit to the country seat of the Earl of Devon brought back memories of his boyhood days in Lancaster and of the various devices which the ingenious farmers adopted to improve their lands. The need of the English farmer for some such simple applications interested Fulton so much that he began to study the problem. From this moment the young American laid aside his brushes. Science henceforth was to have his full attention. His first invention was a mill for sawing marble and stone, then came a machine for spinning flax, next he built an inclined plane for use in canals,— all intended to help mankind to better methods of work.

Then Fulton went to France, which, at the moment was enjoying a brief period of peace with England, and there Fulton began to ponder on the possibility of devising a way to end all warfare between nations. He saw the importance to the young American republic of peace, for, with Europe at war, the rights of her seamen upon the seas would receive little respect from the two greatest maritime powers of the world. Accordingly he matured his plans for the curious instrument which was to bring about universal peace. In a personal interview with Napoleon,